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Eighth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-24 March 1989

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4-5 April 1989

LC/NAIROBI

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(A note by the ECA Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987 had decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 1990, which would carry out a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the SNPA during the 1980s and to consider, formulate and adopt appropriate national and international policies and measures to accelerate development in the LDCs during the 1990s. The government of France has offered to host the meeting which is scheduled to be held in Paris, 3-14 September 1990.

2. In order to facilitate the work of the Conference1/ the LDCs are requested to prepare a paper, entitled "Country presentation", which will be made available to the preparatory committee of the Conference, other preparatory meetings and the Conference itself.

3. It should be recalled that at its eighth meeting, the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs adopted resolution 643(XXIII): preparation for the Second United Nations Conference on least developed countries. In operative paragraph 3, the Ministers requested "African and international organizations especially ECA, UNCTAD and OAU to provide all necessary technical assistance to the African LDCs, in the evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the SNPA and in the formulation of the new strategy to be presented to Conference".

4. In the context of the above resolution, the ECA is collaborating with UNCTAD in the execution of a UNDP funded project INT/88/032: "Assistance to the LDCs for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on LDCs, 1990." ECA/UNCTAD Technical Assistance missions are planned for 1989 with the following terms of reference:

(i) Review progress in preparations of country presentations with technical and substantive staff in concerned ministries,

(ii) Provide on-the-spot assistance including advise on the structure and content of country presentations if requested;

(iii) Determine what further work is needed to complete the 'Presentation';

(iv) In case further assistance is needed, to assist the government officials in defining the nature of the inputs, timing and duration of consultancy missions.

1/ See: Annex of E/ECA/LDCs.9/EXP.8/3/Add.1 for the terms of reference of the Conference.

5. The country presentations should make an assessment of the economic performance of the LDCs during the 1980's in the light of ongoing national and international measures and of their requirements for the 1990's. The country presentations should be based on the 'model' appendaged to this note 2/

2/ The "model for country presentation" was designed by UNCTAD and it is expected to be used by the Ministries of Planning and Economic Development or National Focal points for the SNPA of African LDCs, in the preparation of their respective country presentations.

MODEL FOR COUNTRY PRESENTATION

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